

Liberal Arts Exploration Program

The liberal arts exploration program is an undeclared option designed to allow students to complete liberal arts, mathematics and science required courses while actively pursuing career exploration and receiving individualized academic advising. Students may stay in the program for up to two years or 60 semester credit hours before they choose a major. This option offers students the flexibility and time to explore a variety of majors within the College of Liberal Arts without delaying their graduation.

*Walk-in or schedule an appointment
with a Professional Advisor today.*

Marcia Beattie (mabcce@rit.edu)

- ◆ Criminal Justice
- ◆ Philosophy
- ◆ Political Science

Patricia Sanborn (peslde@rit.edu)

- ◆ Liberal Arts Exploration

Kristen (Roach) Simmons (klrgla@rit.edu)

- ◆ Advertising & Public Relations,
- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Professional & Technical Communication
- ◆ Psychology

Tammi Wiley Wickson (tlwgl@rit.edu)

- ◆ Economics
- ◆ International Studies
- ◆ Museum Studies
- ◆ Public Policy
- ◆ Sociology & Anthropology/Urban & Community Studies

Lawrence Contéro (lregla@rit.edu)

- ◆ College of Imaging Arts & Sciences
- ◆ College of Business
- ◆ College of Applied Science & Technology
- ◆ National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Sheila Oakden (sbogla@rit.edu)

- ◆ College of Computing & Information Sciences
- ◆ College of Engineering
- ◆ College of Health Sciences & Technology
- ◆ College of Science
- ◆ University Studies

Contact your Faculty Advisor directly to schedule a time to meet or to obtain their schedule for walk-in hours.

Some of this information has been adapted from the National Academic Advising Association Clearinghouse of Academic Advising Resources.

R·I·T

Rochester Institute of Technology
College of Liberal Arts

Academic Advising:

Your guide to getting
the most out of your
relationship with your
academic advisor.

College of Liberal Arts
Office of Student Services
Suite 2210-2222 in the
Liberal Arts Hall (Bldg. 6)

Phone: 585-475-2444

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**We are open until 6:00 p.m. Monday through
Thursday during drop/add periods.**

<http://www.rit.edu/cla/>

Welcome to RIT.

As a new student in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), you have several partners who are as committed as you are to your academic and career success. Each student in CLA has a professional advisor and a faculty advisor. Both of your advisors are professionals who truly know RIT, the College of Liberal Arts, and strategies and practices that have the most impact on student well-being and success. Your professional advisor is focused on helping you with your liberal arts core curriculum, transfer credit evaluation, and overall academic needs. Your faculty advisor is focused on helping you with your academic program, co-op and internship needs, and career goals since s/he is a faculty member in your department and knowledgeable about your field of study. Professional advisors are available to students throughout the academic year and are able to effectively guide you through your academic career. In order to make the most out of your relationship with both of your advisors, it is important to keep a few things in mind.

Know who your advisors are and how to contact both of them. The names and email addresses for both your professional advisor and your faculty advisor can be found on the Student Information System (SIS). You can contact both by email by simply clicking on the **details** tab under the Advisor section in Student Center. Complete contact information can be found on your academic department's website as well.

Schedule appointments with your advisor. Although your professional advisors are available for drop-in appointments, your advisor is best able to help you when you schedule an appointment with him or her. This time is set aside specifically for you. If you let your advisor know about the purpose of the meeting, your advisor will also be prepared for your discussion. Be sure to be on time and to contact your advisor prior to the meeting if you need to cancel or reschedule.

Your advisor is best able to help you when you are prepared. Let your advisor know why you are scheduling the meeting. Come prepared with questions and/or information. You may need to complete an educational plan, obtain paperwork, or get information on your own prior to the meeting to ensure that you have the most productive meeting. Ideally you should lead the meeting based on your concerns and needs.

You do not have to wait until you are experiencing difficulties to see your advisor. Your advisor can help you set explicit, positive, reasonable, and achievable goals for your RIT experience and career

aspirations. One of your advisor's primary goals is to help you explore your life, career, and educational goals. Your advisor will be initiating goal-setting discussions. If your advisor knows your goals, your advisor becomes a partner in helping you achieve them. Your advisor enjoys celebrating your achievements.

When you are in trouble, your advisor is there to help you, but is only able to help to the extent that you allow the advisor to help you. Seek out your advisor early and often. If you are having academic difficulty, it is important that you reach out to your advisor. Both your faculty advisor and your professional advisor can help you identify academic resources and strategies to help you improve your class performance and receive a better grade. Be prepared to be honest with yourself and your advisor so that your advisor can provide the best advice. Ask questions and provide thoughtful responses when your advisor asks you a question. Your conversations are confidential and are designed to provide you with information and options for addressing your problems.

As your faculty advisor gets to know you, your advisor will guide you towards academic and co-curricular experiences that may move you closer to attaining your educational and career goals. Your advisor knows that employers are looking for RIT graduates who possess effective written and oral communication skills, critical thinking skills, and good business skills like teamwork, computer literacy, honesty, integrity, and organizational skills. These are abilities that you need regardless of your program or career path. Your advisor will guide you toward opportunities, coursework, and resources that will help develop those skills and demonstrate how you can use them to benefit an organization. These experiences may include elective courses, double majors, community service, involvement in campus organizations and leadership opportunities, cooperative education, summer jobs, part-time jobs, internships, independent study, or study abroad.

It is ok to change your program or career goals and your advisors can help you do this effectively. As you have new experiences, both on and off campus, you may alter your plans. Your advisors can help you make adaptations to your degree plan so that you may still graduate on or near the timeline that you have set for yourself. In addition, your advisor is a great sounding board as you are considering a new major or career path, considering different options, and determining the consequences of your choices. Your advisor can provide effective critical feedback and help you learn how to give yourself feedback, as well as, seek it from your faculty and supervisors.